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their sounds with the vocal organs, and modulate them with the teeth, tongue and lips. The fundamental sounds appear to be pure vowels, but faint traces of consonants are found in many words, especially those of low pitch.

The experiments made by Mr. Garner have been conducted in an ingenious and careful manner, and his results appear to be of value to science. He has the spirit and capacity of the original investigator, and his researches are of much interest to the specialist as well as to the general reader. It is when he turns to the large questions outside of his immediate field of research that it is evident that he has not yet mastered the achievements of human thought. This he will probably do in future, as he has a clear idea of the problems involved. A judicious use of the scissors would have benefited the latter half of the book as it is.

Mr. Garner has gone to Africa with the phonograph with the intention of recording the voices of the gorilla and chimpanzee. It may be questioned whether these animals will be as amenable to social intercourse in the wild state as they are when confined behind the bars of a zoological garden. The gorilla, especially, will not treat with the respect they deserve Mr. Garner's efforts to engage in conversation. We, however, wish him success in his enterprise, not only with regard to these, our distant relations, but also our nearer of kin, the Africans of the native tribes.

Elementary Biology.²—A book written by a teacher for students. The general plan of the work is to familiarize the student with ideas through the medium of facts. In the author's opinion these ideas are best understood when arrived at by the study of concrete types of animals and plants. The types chosen to illustrate a particular grade of organization must be simple. In view of this last principle considerable attention is given to the Protozoa; only a brief reference is made to Hydra and to the sexual process in Penicillium; Nitella is described instead of Chara, and Polygordius instead of the earthworm. In the chapter devoted to the higher groups of animals and plants brief descriptions of types are given in terms of Polygordius and the Fern respectively. As occasion offers special lessons on such subjects as biogenesis, evolution, origin of species, etc., are introduced in order to give a fairly connected account of the general principles of biology.

²Lessons in Elementary Biology, by T. Jeffery Parker, B. Sc., F. R. S., professor of biology in the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, with eighty-nine illustrations; Macmillan and Co., London and New York, 1891.

To us it seems as if the above plan, while admirable in some respects, was open to criticism. *Polygordius*, for instance, is a simple annelid, and whether that simplicity is primitive or results from degeneration is of secondary moment in a text book of this sort. Our objection would rather rest upon the fact that the worm is not widely distributed and is infrequent, at least in American waters, while the inland student must entirely forego its use in his laboratory work. On the other hand it is well to have this presentation of the features of this simple worm, for it is usually slighted in our text books and in the most recent one, Hertwig's *Lehrbuch*, it and the group to which it belongs are entirely ignored in the text.

The numerous illustrations are, for the most part, original, and each plate is fully described instead of having appended a mere list of reference letters. A synopsis, an index, and a glossary complete the work.

Apgar's Trees of the Northern United States.³—The plan of this little book is well indicated in one of the paragraphs in the preface. The difficulty in tree study by the aid of the usual botanies lies mainly in the fact that in using them the first essential parts to be examined are the blossoms and their organs. These remain on the trees a very short time, are often entirely unnoticed on account of their small size or obscure color, and are usually inaccessible, even if seen. In this book the leaves, the wood, the bark, and, in an elementary way, the fruit, are the parts that must be thoroughly known by all who wish to learn to recognize trees. Its purpose is to place before pupils in the public schools an easy manual of our common trees in the hope that the trees of our forests, lawns, yards, orchards, streets, borders, and parks may not continue to be neglected—a most commendable endeavor, indeed.

Doubtless if our teachers of botany in the public schools had anything like an adequate knowledge of the subject such a book would not be called for, but as Prof. Apgar somewhat sarcastically remarks, "this book was written for the average teacher who has had no strictly scientific training." It is to be hoped that it will serve the purpose intended by its author, and that the next generation of high school graduates, all of whom have "done botany, of course," will know

³Trees of the Northern United States, their study, description and determination; for the use of schools and private students, by Austin C. Apgar, professor of botany in the New Jersey State Normal School. Small, 8 vol., 224 pp. American Book Company, 1892.